

MONTGOMERY FIRE / RESCUE



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Fire Tactics

November 2015 (Revised March 2016)

FIREGROUND TACTICAL PRIORTIES

The incident priorities for any emergency are life safety, incident stabilization, and property conservation. Initial tactical decisions made in the first five to ten minutes will dictate the direction of the remainder of the incident. Good tactical decisions made to benefit the safety of ourselves and our customers are the basis of our first decisions. To accomplish these priorities, fire officers and firefighters apply tactics are known traditionally by many acronyms which all serve the same purpose; establish a mindset of safety and incident control. For our purposes, MFR operates using the acronym “**RECEO-VS**”.

RECEO-VS is the foundation by which we (MFR) establish a good, coordinated fireground operation. A coordinated fire attack is critical to the success of any fireground operation. The time and manner, in which we protect exposures, confine the fire and when and how we ventilate greatly impacts our firefighters and victims in the coordinated fire attack. Therefore, this process is fluid and vital in proper scene safety and incident management.

Montgomery Fire/Rescue fire attack tactics are selected and based on tried and true fireground objectives- such as rescue, exposure, confinement and extinguishment of the fire, overhaul, ventilation and salvage. **All firefighters should know the RECEO-VS (Rescue, Exposure, Confine, Extinguish, Overhaul and Ventilate, Salvage) acronym to assist with making tactical decisions, based on size-up findings and the emergency call that is received.** Montgomery Fire/Rescue will prioritize the delivery of these tactics to extinguish the fire, ensure it stays out and conserve as much property as the complexity and fire size permits.

Not all tactics are required at every fire, but they should always be considered. To mitigate fireground and emergency scenes, each of these tactical priorities can be delivered singularly or at the same time based on resource availability and priority of completion.

RESCUE:

The rescue of civilians is our primary purpose. The decision to prioritize the initial phases of fireground tactics to perform rescue is based on presenting evidence during size-up or information gained from dispatch or witnesses. We consistently teach trainees this fireground decision foundation, but sometimes forget to advise

them that a rescue tactic without a coordinated fire attack is an extremely risky venture and should only be performed in extreme cases.

Hose lines give us the ability to assist with rescues by placing protection between victims and fire. They also give interior crews a priceless tool for self-preservation should interior fire dynamics deteriorate quickly. These hose lines allow for keeping fire from victims, control interior stairwells and corridors for firefighters egress or hose line advancement, and protection for firefighters operating on the floor above the fire floor.

EXPOSURE:

Exposures consist of interior and exterior sources. Exposure lines allow us to ensure we stay ahead of rapid fire progress and contain fires to the smallest size possible, i.e. room of origin, floor of origin, building of origin and block of origin. Fire will extend in all directions by direct flame contact, radiated heat, convection, embers and more regularly heat contained in smoke.

Interior exposures include:

- Victims: in these incidents it is preferred to remove them, from the exposure situation. In some cases, confining a fire to the involved area or extinguishment of the fire, serve as the most effective option in protecting a victim from harm.
- Interior exposures: include all interior structural areas which are not involved in fire but are adjacent to the fire area. These areas include attics, adjacent rooms, ventilation systems, stairwells, and upper or lower floors. These areas require protection through rapid fire control or timely placement of protective attack lines.

Exterior exposures include:

- People: firefighters and civilians working in or near any incident are considered exposures and must be protected. Citizens are best protected through complete removal from the hot and warm zones. They should not be permitted within these areas unless approved by the IC and supervised by MFR personnel as they carry out the tasks in which they are involved. Examples of these persons include utility personnel, reporters, business/home owners and victims.

- Attached structures: structures of this type include areas similar to a garage, storage areas and row houses or strip malls. Due to the potential for rapid fire spread through construction materials and direct flame contact, it is vital to quickly assess the potential for fire spread and the best means of exposure protection. Protection may be best served through rapid fire control or proper placement of exposure lines and/or ventilation techniques.
- Unattached structures: although structures are often the most considered exposure of this type, additional consideration must be placed on vehicles, utilities and firefighting apparatus. As with protecting any potential exposure, rapid fire control serves as the best means of protection. It is important to quickly recognize the need for exposure protection and to call for additional support early to prevent fire spread.

CONFINEMENT:

This is the next tactical decision in the standard evolution of fireground tactics. It requires a sufficient amount of knowledge regarding fuel load to anticipate what volume of water may be necessary to ensure the fire remains in the smallest area possible. We must consider whether there are victims within the structure, if the structure is residential or commercial, if exterior or interior operations are best options, and type of and quantity of fuel. Associated with the amount of fire on arrival, it should guide the first arriving officer to select attack lines that will effectively deal with the amount of fire present on arrival and the estimate of fire spread in the time it takes to deploy the initial attack lines.

Too often firefighters make their first attack on flames and/or smoke which is often unsuccessful and most of all dangerous. Effective confinement requires the officer to locate the seat of a fire. In some instances this task is carried out by controlled and coordinated cooling of the atmosphere and/or ventilation. If the seat of a fire cannot be immediately located and ventilation is considered, the officer must ensure victims are protected and ample water supply is available before any ventilation takes place.

The goal of confinement is to prevent fire from spreading beyond the area involved from the time you begin your attack. (Stop it where you found it) This requires proper judgment in determining the amount of water needed to extinguish a specified volume of fire, to include knowledge of the fire load. Do not get hung up on using the 1¾", large fires require large water. It's better to have more flow capability with you to rapidly extinguish the fire.

EXTINGUISHMENT:

Extinguishment should be accomplished by applying fire stream operations in the most safe and effective manner. In a manner to prevent added fire loss and risk to firefighters, the best practice for MFR is to begin the extinguishment process from the unburned side. This practice reduces the risk of pushing fire into uninvolved areas. Additionally, safety is served best if you set your nozzle pattern and bleed the air from your line prior to entering the structure. Stay low on entering the fire area to allow for heat and gases to vent before moving in. If heat is encountered while advancing into a structure, open the hose line to reduce the temperature at the ceiling in the area.

Heat moving through smoke has the ability to ignite fuel vapors contained within the smoke. Use the water for the reason we have always chosen it to cool things down. If heat in the area is hot enough to be forcing your personnel to the floor, the amount of damage you will cause to the structure is insignificant.

Once the fire is located and knocked down, shut down your hose lines to allow for the area to vent. If you enter an area that is very hot but find no fire, get out and check the area below you. If large, intense fires are found on arrival the officer must also consider the option of a quick exterior knockdown. If large fire volume or extreme heat is encountered during an interior attack, the officer may require units to back out of a structure and allow for a quick exterior knockdown before regaining entry. In either situation, the officer has many considerations to take into account:

- whether or not an exterior attack will affect victims,
- risk of potentially pushing fire to uninvolved areas,
- is ventilation primary prior to exterior knockdown,
- best location for a knockdown,
- if a knockdown will be beneficial at all.

If the officer makes an exterior knockdown, he/she must be prepared to quickly move to an interior attack and follow through with extinguishment. Have a plan of operation for both the exterior attack and transition to an interior attack. Failure to think ahead of the fire may result in loss of fire control and endangers your personnel.

Again, regardless of what is presented upon arrival, the officer has to think quick, use sound judgment and common sense in determining the best means of fire extinguishment. Once an officer makes a determination of extinguishment technique, it is important to notify all personnel of the plan. This prevents confusion and opposing methods of attack. All terminology and extinguishment practices used during a fire attack must be standard Montgomery Fire/Rescue policy and procedures. Deviation from what is taught and practiced may cause confusion and hindrance in overall operation. Most of all, if we fail to operate using the same standards someone may get injured.

OVERHAUL:

This is the systematic look at the fire scene to make sure there are no further traces of fire. This entails searching for hidden fire to ensure we leave the structure in as safe a condition as possible. Hidden fires must be located and extinguished to prevent the structure from further damage or the feared rekindle. This may require the removal of large amounts of wall, ceiling, roof and contents. Do not become complacent during overhaul. A thorough overhaul of all fire or adjacent areas will greatly reduce the potential for a rekindle.

Overhaul is vital to fire extinguishment yet it should be performed with fire investigation in mind. Do not delay needed overhaul for an investigation, but if possible prevent as much damage to the fire area as you can to allow fire investigators the best opportunity to investigate a cause and collect evidence. The depth of the overhaul process should be weighed against the need for the fire investigators to complete their tasks. Keep a charged hose line in place when the investigation is on-going in case the fire flares up.

ALL personnel performing overhaul should be in full PPE and SCBA. It is well known that even when the fire appears extinguished and little smoke is showing, there is still a potential for injuries from structural debris, emitting of toxic gases and reigniting of the fire. These unseen hazards may result in injury or fatality.

VENTILATION:

Ventilation serves to systematically remove heated gases and smoke with the intent of replacing them with cooler cleaner air. The goal is to exchange dangerous air inside a building or compartment with air outside the building or compartment. Effective ventilation is required to reduce risk to firefighters, potential explosive

atmospheres and speed the extinguishment process. The use of ventilation may take place at any time prior to, during or after fire attack. The situation, incident condition and Incident Commander's decision process will determine when and where to begin and halt ventilation.

Ventilation of choice in MFR is positive Pressure Ventilation. Proper use of Positive Pressure Ventilation is a great tool in creating a more efficient and effective means of:

1. Reducing danger to trapped occupants and allows for an increased rescue profile.
2. Increasing visibility for interior crews, which enhance their safety and efficiency.
3. Assisting with rapid search and hose line advancement.
4. Increasing the speed at which the seat of the fire is located.
5. Reducing the time required to find fire spread.
6. Reducing the chances of flashover and/or backdraft.

However, positive pressure ventilation is only effective on structures when doors and windows are intact. It's vital to remember that ventilation must be coordinated with interior attack teams and the Incident Commander. Freelancing of ventilation is discouraged; no ventilation process shall take place unless command has ordered this to occur. Remember, when selecting a method of ventilation, be aware of the consequences of that decision, including when to initiate or terminate the process.

SALVAGE:

Much like ventilation, salvage is a "sliding tactical assignment." While salvage is predominantly assigned when all other tactical processes have been completed, Montgomery Fire/Rescue will perform salvage as soon as resources and other priorities allow. Chances exist that any significant fire will cause a displacement of a family or business for some amount of time. The structure will probably be rebuilt in the near future and they will be somewhat content with this. However, when irreplaceable personal effects or business assets are protected the affected customer will be very grateful.

The homeowners/business owner in the community we serve will remember our department for taking the effort to save their memories or vital business records more than if we saved their newly remodeled kitchen or piece of equipment. Salvage has more ability to increase our community equity and positive opinions than almost any other service program.



Firefighting Tactical Guidelines

Residential Structures

Purpose:

To establish standard tactics for fires occurring in such structures, tactics for operations of Engine, Truck, and Rescue Companies.

Resources for fires in residential structures:

The minimum resources assigned to incidents of reported fires in these types of fires are:

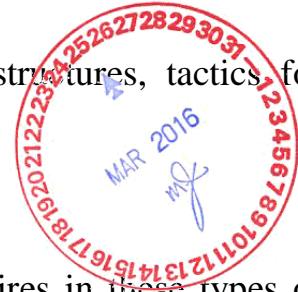
- a. 2 - Engine Companies.
- b. 1 - Truck Company
- c. 1 - EMS unit
- d. 1 – Heavy Rescue (RIT)
- e. 1 - District Chief

* The EMS unit may assume command until a District Supervisor assumes command

* The Rescue may be utilized as a RIT until another unit is assigned this task by the Incident Commander.

Response:

1. When reports of someone trapped are received, the assigned resources should be modified to include ALS units to handle the number of potential victims as well as care for MFR personnel.
2. Utility-fueled fires will require the assistance of the involved utility company.
3. Units encountering delays in response should communicate this immediately, along with changes in arrival orders that will affect assignments. The dispatcher should notify the responding chief officer of these changes. The chief officer should be advised of and acknowledge companies becoming available and being added to the incident.



4. The rehabilitation of companies operating on an incident may require additional resources for relief as well as to staff Rehab.
5. Units need to relay information on plans for hydrants and water supplies while in route.
6. Highest-ranking MFR officer shall assume command upon arrival at incident scene. If first due MFR officer is engaged in interior or rescue operations, then next arriving MFR officer shall assume command.
7. Divisions designate a geographical location interior or exterior. Interior-If structure is 2 or more stories in height, then designation will be Division 1 equals first floor, Division 2 equals second floor, etc. Crews operating inside will be designated according to function/group (fire-attack, rescue, ventilation, etc.) and operate under Division. If one of the above functions is being performed exterior then that crew will be designated as exterior according to function and operate under command, operations or division.
8. Divisions exterior-the outside of the structure will be divided into exposures with the building directly in front of address of fire building being designated Exposure 1 and then continuing clockwise 2,3, and 4. MFR personnel in charge of an exposure will be designated as Exposure 1, 2, 3, 4. All other assignments will be designated according to function (water supply, rehab, staging, etc.).

Apparatus Positioning:

Typical positions and initial actions:

1. First in Engine— pull past the incident structure to give the Officer a full three sided view, the rear of the structure will have to be viewed on foot.
2. Place attack pumper in a position to deploy interior attack lines and protect threatened exposure. If laying a supply line, try to lay to the side of the street to allow access for other units. If commercial building or large home consider access and position for truck/ladder company.
3. The initial on scene report should include:
 - a. Size of supply lines
 - b. Structure description

- c. Size-up
 - d. Situation report
 - e. Initial attack line
4. Second in Engine – water supply, back-up lines.
 5. Truck Company – position apparatus close to structure to allow for effective aerial use. Proximity should allow for quick and easy equipment access in the event forcible entry is needed as well as tactics such as search, ventilation, ladders, etc.
 6. Rescue Unit – standby for medical emergencies, act as a RIT if needed.



The information gathered from the size-up will dictate the mode of operation, action plan, and tactics employed. The size-up results are reported through the situation report, which should include command statement, initial assignments, and requests for greater alarms. Progress reports will follow.

Water Supply:

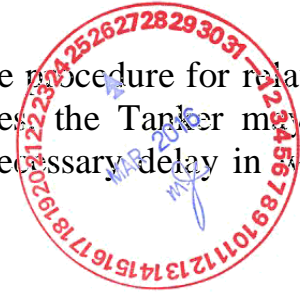
If a fire of any significance occurs in the city that has hydrants available, then strong consideration should be given to laying a 5” supply line, preferably using a forward lay. The MFR officer in charge also has the option to use a reverse lay if necessary. Remember, on a reverse lay that equipment will be going with the Pumper to the water supply, so make sure equipment needed at the scene is removed before the engine travels to the hydrant. If a fire of any significance occurs in an area with no hydrants, then prepare accordingly for either a shuttle operation or for the tanker to supply directly to the Pumper. There will be times when the officer will need to make decisions on supply lines that are not covered in this section. However, good judgment is very important, and the officer should have good reason for their decision. The officer should also remember that good communication with other responding units is important when anything out of the ordinary is done concerning laying supply lines.

1. A single 3 inch supply line by each Engine Company may be laid on a one story house of average size or below. (Average size being approximately 1500 square feet). Any house that is at the limits of the “average” size and is well involved in fire may call for two supply lines or a 5” line by the first arriving Engine Company.

2. The second in Engine Company shall make every effort to catch a separate hydrant and lay a hose line equal to that of the first in Engine. (Example: If the first in lays a 5" then the second Engine shall lay a 5".) The second in Engine will connect their supply line to their intake and lay a line equal to their supply line to the first in Engine Company intake.
 - a. If the second Engine is to serve as a backup water supply, then the intake will remain closed and the apparatus will not be placed in pump gear. Once all connections are made and the apparatus secured, the Engineer will perform needed emergency activities.
 - b. If the second Engine is to serve as an additional water supply, then the intake and discharge will be opened and the pump operation engaged. If the pump is engaged the Engineer must remain with the apparatus and perform Engineer duties.
 - c. If the secondary water supply is for added water supply only, then the original Engineer will make needed pressure and discharge pressure adjustments as needed.
 - d. If the second in Engine is serving to replace a lost water supply on the first in Engine, then the Engineer on the first in Engine will close their original intake valves as soon as the secondary water supply is available. This will prevent the engine pressure from being diverted to the hydrant system instead of the fire attack.
3. A 5" or two supply lines will be laid on houses larger than 1500 square feet or when dealing with larger buildings or any business structure. When dealing with supply lines for our larger buildings we have to place strong emphasis on the potential fire issues.
4. The Company officer should consider a 5" or two lines when a company that normally answers with them is out of service. The longer response time of the company answering out of territory will make it necessary for the first arriving Engine Company to adjust for a delay of the secondary water supply.
5. A forward or straight hose lay of a supply line shall be used when possible. Modifications to this procedure may be made to ensure sufficient water

supply to extinguish the fire. Any deviation from standard procedures must be communicated to all incoming units.

6. In areas where hydrants are not readily available, the procedure for relay or shuttle operations will be followed. In some cases the Tanker may be required; request the Tanker early-on to avoid unnecessary delay in water supply.



Fire Operations:

1. Life safety is the highest priority at all structure fires. However, the potential for life loss is most prominent in residential occupancies. This objective should be achieved through aggressive interior fire containment and primary search. All operational tactics should be assigned to support this strategic goal.
2. When it has been confirmed that occupants of the structure are accounted for, self-evacuated, evacuated with assistance, or rescued, the strategic goal should then focus on firefighter safety and fire extinguishment.
3. In most cases, fire extinguishment should be achieved through an offensive interior attack. At times, size-up will indicate otherwise, however, personnel should anticipate an offensive interior attack.
4. The conservation of property should be a strategic goal throughout the incident.
5. Rescue should be addressed through an aggressive interior primary search for life, focused on the area nearest the fire as well as the bedrooms and means of egress. Ventilation in this type of structure is critical in facilitating a primary search. This may be achieved through the removal or opening of selected windows where occupants may be located. TIC's should be used for victim searches with consideration of positive pressure ventilation if possible.
6. Exterior exposures should be addressed through an offensive interior attack, an offensive exterior attack, or by protecting the exposures with a defensive attack.

7. The extinguishment of the fire should be achieved through the proper selection, placement, and application of the attack lines. The compartmentation generally found within single family dwellings and fire loading suggests 1¾" lines should be effective in extinguishing most content fires.
8. The ventilation of these types of structures should generally be achieved through natural horizontal methods using PPV fans.

Initial Attack Line:

1. The initial attack line for most fires within this type of structure will be the 1¾" line with a minimum flow of 150 gpm; allowing for speed, mobility, and effective fire flow. The first in Engine Company will usually be responsible for deploying this line.
 - a. Montgomery Fire/Rescue attempts to fight fire from the unburned to the burned to extinguish the seat of the fire whenever possible, sometimes situations change tactics.
 - b. Be prepared to utilize a 2½" attack line as a primary attack line, this will be dictated by fire involvement and staffing.
2. The second in Engine Company will put the second 1¾" in operation to back-up the first in company unless otherwise changed by the Incident Commander.
 - a. Depending on fire volume and structure size, the second in company may serve as exterior fire control or RIT.
3. Commercial or larger residential structures with heavy fire and/or smoke showing, then a 2½" should be the smallest line deployed, flowing a minimum of 250 gpm. However, if the situation warrants a larger flow such as the deck gun, or water tower then it should be done. To determine if a 2½" or larger flow is required, take this into consideration:
 - Advanced fire conditions
 - Defensive fire operations
 - Unable to determine fire area (location or size)
 - Large open areas

- Tons of water required
- Standpipe operations

4. Officers should consider an additional hose line for operations above the fire.

- Quick access and line placement in the attack or crawl space will improve fire control and extinguishment.
- Line on upper floors serves to protect personnel during primary search in multistory structures.
- Line on upper floors serves to prevent spread or extinguish vertical fire extension.

*Additional lines should normally be a 1¾" line, sufficient length to reach the area above the fire whether in the attic or added building stories.

Truck Company Tactics:

The truck company's functional duties on residential structure fires are operations such as searching for victims and location of the fire, forcible entry, ventilation, and control of the utilities. Assignments specific to the truck company would normally involve rescue, laddering, lighting, salvage and utility control. Success in preserving life and property hinges on the proficiency of the members performing these duties.

1. The preferred position for the truck company at fires in residential structures will be the front of the structure; with deployment of ground ladders, on at least two sides of the structure, as a primary concern.
2. First on scene units shall consider the need for deployment of an aerial device and allow for effective aerial ladder placement and support. Units arriving after the truck company should be cognizant of the possible need for deployment of the aerial or supply of the device and avoid blocking effective use of this apparatus.
3. It is recognized that there are circumstances that will prevent units from positioning as preferred. At times, only one engine will be able to position

in close proximity to the structure, as is the case with a home located at the end of a long narrow driveway.

The initial actions of the first arriving truck company will be determined by the plan of action developed from the size-up. After ensuring entry, these initial actions will generally be tactics focusing simultaneously on primary search and ventilation. Ventilation must be done to support the search as well as the advance of the attack. When only the truck company is on the scene, the officer may have to split the crew. The tasks of search and ventilation must be accomplished simultaneously requiring the crew to split with a member venting from the exterior while the officer and other member conduct a primary search inside.

Upon arrival of the other units, the truck company officer is responsible for ensuring laddering and outside ventilation is accomplished. Certain size-up factors may indicate the need for ventilation prior to entry into a structure. When these conditions are observed the fire shall be vented prior to entrance into the structure.

4. Before venting, the initial charged line must be in place and ready. In most cases, ventilation should occur from the top down using the removal of windows as the avenue for hot gases to escape.
5. If ladders are used to remove upper story windows, consideration should be given to leaving one or more of the ladders in place. This allows the interior crews the advantage of seeing the ladder placement prior to entrance into the structure.
6. Venting for fires will be accomplished through the coordinated and limited removal or opening of windows in the fire area. The areas where the fire can be seen or are showing the highest concentration of smoke should only be opened when the attack line is in position to confine the fire.
7. The need for rooftop ventilation will depend on the extent and location of the fire. Generally, the roof will not need to be ventilated unless the fire has entered the attic area, extended into the structure walls or has a considerable hold of the top floor. Any order for a topside ventilation operation should be a Command decision.
8. Mechanical and positive pressure ventilation should also be a Command decision and caution with special consideration being given to all structures of balloon-frame construction.

High-Rise Fire Guidelines

Life Safety:

Life safety of building occupants and Montgomery Fire Rescue personnel is the primary concern of the Incident Commander.

1. Establish command
2. Consider additional alarms
3. Provide for life safety (search and rescue)
4. Attack the fire and protect exposures
5. Provide adequate water supply
6. Provide for ventilation
7. Establish lobby control

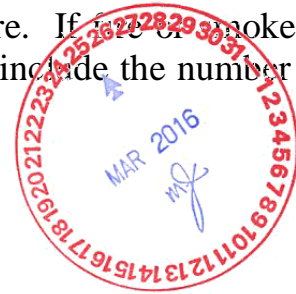


Secondary Priorities:

1. Air supply and support
2. Staging (manpower and firefighting equipment)
3. Rehab group
4. Control of building systems (Internal communications, HVAC, alarm panels, etc.)
5. Establish an operation base (manpower and apparatus)

Initial Report:

If no apparent fire is visible, assume there is a concealed fire. If smoke is visible, call for extra alarms. Give a good initial size-up to include the number of floors and exposures.



Command Post/ Operations:

The Command Post/Operations should be established in or near the building control systems area. If no building control system exists, the command post may be established either inside or outside the building.

Command and Operations may be separated as conditions dictate (ex. W-3 or greater). If separated, Command's location will remain the same and Operations will be set normally one to two floors below the fire. All radio from the Operations Officer to the IC and other units will give their designated floor number. This will allow the Operations Officer to move into the fire floor and other area, but also keep personnel informed of the location of operations. Operations shall be responsible for all tactical operations. Command shall be responsible for the over-all incident.

Elevators:

Elevators are not recommended for the initial ascent, unless positive control (key control) of the elevator can be established or information indicates that it is safe to be utilized. If elevators are used for the initial ascent, they shall be used no higher than two floors below the fire floor.

Initial attack crews shall not use the elevator unless the hoist-way is clear of water, smoke and fire. If used, the initial attack crew shall stop every five floors to recheck the hoist-way for changes. The initial ascent shall be no closer than two floors below the fire floor.

Company Officers, while pre-planning high-rise occupancies, should determine who has elevator keys and if the elevator key be obtained for Fire Department use. If a Knox Box is present companies should check periodically to see that the elevator key is in the Knox Box.

Initial Assignment:

The initial assignment for High-rise incidents is:

- 3 – Engine Companies
- 2 – Ladder Companies
- 1 – District Chief



Engine Companies:

- 1st Engine Assume command, investigate and size-up, conduct a primary search on the fire floor, attack the fire if possible.
- 2nd Engine Lay supply lines and support the standpipe and/or sprinkler system.
- 3rd Engine Stage in the lobby or as directed by the Incident Commander.

Truck Companies:

- 1st Ladder Assume command, investigate and size-up, conduct a primary search on the fire floor, perform forcible entry, ventilation and check for extension.
- 2nd Ladder Assume lobby control or operations as directed by the Incident commander.

District Chief:

- 1st District Chief Assume Command and assign tasks as needed.

Rescue Unit (on working fires W3 or greater):

- 1st Rescue Report to the Incident Commander. Be prepared to serve as Rehab Officers as well as Medical treatment.

Extra Alarm Companies:

Report to staging area. If assigned interior duties, companies shall bring their High-Rise Kit plus at least one extra SCBA tank per person. Unless otherwise directed, apparatus operators will remain with their unit.

Initial Response Equipment:

Engine Company High-Rise Kit:

1. Partner pry axe
2. 150-foot of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose
3. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " nozzle
4. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " gated wye
5. Spanner wrench
6. Pipe wrench
7. Five lumber crayons
8. Five door chocks
9. Rubber door straps
10. One 6-foot section of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " hose
11. Non-flammable orange spray paint



Ladder Company High-Rise Kit:

1. Partner pry axe
2. Flat head axe
3. Spanner wrench
4. Pipe wrench
5. Five lumber crayons
6. Five door chocks
7. Rubber door straps
8. Elevator keys (door operation)
9. 200-foot rescue rope
10. Body harness
11. Non-flammable orange spray paint

Rescue Unit

1. Oxygen bottle and supplies
2. Defibrillator
3. EMS Jump Kit

Divisions and Groups

1. Divisions and/or Groups shall be established to allow for more manageable incidents. Divisions are assigned to a specific geographic location. (i.e. Division 15 is the 15th floor) When Divisions are utilized they are responsible for all activities within the Division. The establishment of Divisions and Groups and the delegation of assignments will be NIMS compliant.
2. Division and Group Officers shall maintain a log of all companies and times pertaining to the work within their Division or Group.

Lobby Control:

1. Lobby Control will control the elevator and stairwell use and determine which will be used as the attack and evacuation route.

Interior Staging (manpower and equipment)

1. As soon as Interior Staging is established, the Interior Staging Officer shall notify the Incident commander of his location and the floor number. Normally the Interior Staging groups will be located two floors below the fire floor, unless conditions indicate otherwise.

Rehabilitation Group:

1. The location of this group shall be near the Interior Staging area. This will allow for easy transition of personnel back into the operation once rehab is completed. The Medic District Chief will be assigned to the position of rehabilitation Officer.



Initial Priorities:

Establish Command:

This may involve acting as the Incident commander and Division or Group Officer until manpower improves.



1. Report the conditions and formulate a strategy
2. Report your actions
3. Direct other companies and assign Groups and Divisions

Provide For Life Safety:

Life Safety of the building occupants and firefighters is the primary concern of the Incident Commander.

1. Ensure that a designated stairway is kept free of smoke to allow for evacuation of occupants.
2. The Division and Group Officers are responsible for the personnel assigned to them.
3. Provide for search and evacuation as necessary.

Mark doors or areas with orange spray paint to indicate a search has been completed.



SINGLE SLASH – A *single slash* drawn upon entry to a structure, or area, shall indicate Primary search has been completed.



CROSSING SLASH – A *crossing slash* shall be drawn upon search and rescue members completing the Secondary search of the structure.

Fire Attack/Exposures:

Initial Assignment (all first alarm companies):

1. Initial report will include a request for additional alarm if smoke or flames are visible.
2. Report what is showing and your actions.
3. Report to the lobby with appropriate equipment for your assignment.
4. Obtain information from security and/or building management.
5. Obtain keys for elevators, windows, stairwells and doors as well as building plans if available.
6. Locate fire control room
7. Determine means of ascent and report this information to the Incident commander.



Attack Groups:

1. The first in Engine and Ladder Companies should attempt to work as a team and form an Attack Group. Establishing this Group should not delay entering the structure for tactical operations. If needed the first in unit will proceed into the structure and perform their responsibilities until the second unit arrives to complete the Attack Group.
2. The Attack Group Officer will evaluate the area two floors below the reported fire floor to establish its use as a staging area and communicate this information to the Incident Commander. The Attack Group Officer shall note the layout of this floor as to the stairwells, hose cabinets and general floor plan for use on upper floors.
3. The Attack Group will use the stairs to ascend to the fire floor and will report the situation to the Incident commander.

Engine Companies:

1. The first in Engine Company will report to the lobby with all high-rise equipment. All personnel will be part of the initial Attack Group and will advance firefighting lines to attack the fire. The first Engine must be positioned to prevent interference with positioning of incoming units or future fireground operations.
2. The second Engine Company will catch a hydrant to support the standpipe and/or sprinkler system. The officer in charge of the second Engine will report to the Incident Commander as soon as his personnel are available for additional tasks.
3. The officer and personnel from the third Engine Company will report to Lobby Control and stage unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.

Rescue:

1. The first Rescue Unit will report in person to the Incident commander with all equipment.
2. If Rescue personnel are assigned to interior duties, they shall wear full protective equipment including SCBA.
3. Rescue personnel shall be prepared to establish the Triage and/or Rehabilitation Group.

Water Supply:

1. The second Engine Company will catch a hydrant to supply the standpipe/sprinkler systems. Additional alarm units may be needed to supply additional water needs or master streams.

Ventilation:

1. A Ventilation Group should be established as soon as possible. They shall determine the need to shut down HVAC systems and/or create an opening above the stairwell. (These actions may negatively affect a designed Pressurizing System built into the building.)

2. At the first report of smoke or fire, positive pressure ventilation should be established in the stairwells. The evacuation stairwell should be open at the top. (roof/top floor) The attack stairwell needs to be open on the floor if possible and not at the top floor or roof.
3. The Ventilation Group must insure all stairwell doors are closed unless they are used for ventilation, evacuation or fire attack. Personnel with radios shall check each floor to insure all doors are closed and report any potential problems to the Incident Commander.

Windows:

1. Before breaking any window the officer shall check to see if window keys are available. Do not unnecessarily break any windows.
2. If upper floor windows must be removed, the Incident Commander must clear all personnel and protect exposed hose lines in the area below the window. This may involve stationing department personnel in buildings to prevent people from exiting the building into the danger area.

Lobby Control:

1. Lobby Control shall be assigned to the crew of the second arriving Ladder Company, unless otherwise assigned by the Incident Commander.
2. Lobby Control personnel will determine which stairwell or elevator will be used by civilian or Fire Department personnel. They will also be responsible for securing the elevator/stairwell keys.
3. Lobby Control will establish the equipment staging area in the lobby and coordinate with the Interior Staging Officer for dispersal of equipment. If equipment must be carried to the upper floors via the stairs, it may be more efficient to place a firefighter at every other floor to carry equipment in a relay operation.
4. Remember that control of the elevator may take an entire company.

Secondary Priorities:

Air Supply:

1. Air supply will be critical during a high-rise fire. The Rehab Van should be positioned as close to the building as possible but not interfere with placement of other fireground operations or apparatus.
2. All bottles on the Rehab Van should be taken to the lobby area. These will eventually be moved to the staging area on an upper floor. Extra alarm companies will bring at least one extra air bottle per person as they ascend to the upper floors.
3. The mobile Cascade Units may be called and placed near the fire scene for refilling bottles as needed.

Staging:

1. The objective of staging is to provide a standard system of placement for responding apparatus, personnel and equipment to a specific assignment. There will be an Interior and exterior staging area at any working high-rise fire incident.

Interior Staging:

The Incident Commander should establish an Interior Staging area (usually) two floors below the fire floor. The efficient operation of an Interior Staging area may require a full company of personnel.

Duties:

- a. Report location to the Incident Commander or Operations Officer
- b. Maintain an adequate level of manpower to supply relief to operating crews.
- c. Establish a Rehabilitation Group and a Medical Group if needed.
- d. Establish adequate air supply.

- e. Maintain separate stock piles of reserve and expended equipment.
- f. Maintain accurate records of company status (in, out and reserve) and equipment.

Exterior Staging:

When a second alarm or greater is required, the Incident Commander shall establish an exterior staging base. Exterior Staging should be at least 200 feet from the fire building. This area may be a street, parking lot, etc., with an appropriate surface, access from at least two distinct directions and ample space for accumulation of a large number of vehicles. Apparatus responding to the base should park diagonally, if possible, allowing space between vehicles for easy removal of tools and equipment.

The officer of the first arriving additional alarm unit will assume command of the Base Group and duties.

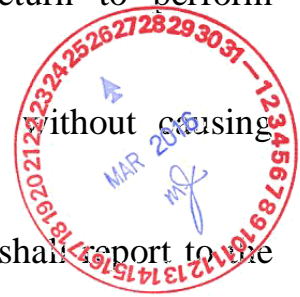
Duties:

- a. Manage all operations at the base.
- b. Direct companies and equipment from the base as directed by the Incident Commander.
- c. Keep the Incident Commander informed of companies in reserve at the base area.
- d. Maintain accurate records of apparatus and equipment staging at the base area.

Rehabilitation / Triage Group:

1. Rehabilitation and Triage may be separate groups if necessary.
2. The senior Paramedic, on the dispatched Medic Unit, will assume command responsibility for this group until relieved by the EMS Assistant Chief. If the Assistant Chief chooses to separate these functions, then a group officer must be assigned for each group.

3. These group officers should be certified paramedics. They shall have the authority to determine if a firefighter is ready to return to perform operations.
4. These groups should be located near Interior Staging without causing confusion in personnel assignments.
5. Any person who becomes injured or extremely fatigued shall report to the Rehab/Triage Group.
6. Any group officer may waive the above requirement if doing so will interfere with the effectiveness of the operation or endangers the life of other firefighters.
7. If possible, companies will report to Rehab as a unit. The company officer is responsible for advising the Operations Officer of his need and decision to move to Rehab or Triage.



Duties:

- a. Assess vitals of all personnel reporting to the Rehab area. Evaluate personnel for possible medical treatment.
- b. All personnel entering Rehab will remove protective clothing to allow for cooling.
- c. Re-hydrate personnel with ample fluids and I.V.s if necessary.
- d. Verify the health and condition of personnel before allowing them to return to operations.
- e. Keep accurate records of personnel entering and leaving Rehab.

Communications:

1. All communications from the units at a high-rise incident should go through the Incident Command Post or Operations Group whichever is appropriate.
2. Communications from the fireground to the Communication Center will be from the Incident Commander only.

3. Radio communications in a high-rise may be hindered by the building, other options for communication may be necessary. If available, take control and use in-house phone systems, intercom systems, elevator phones, and if possible cell phones.
4. Face-to-face communication should be used when possible to avoid excess radio traffic.
5. When evacuations are necessary, the Incident Commander should have a representative utilize the building communication system to notify occupants which stairwell to use as a means of egress.

General Operation Guidelines:

1. All members shall wear full protective gear and SCBA into the building. Regulators should not be connected to the face mask until the first sign of smoke is encountered, this will aid conserving air. Face masks should be tested for a good seal before leaving the ground floor.
2. Fire companies should operate as teams, especially those searching in smoky conditions. Systematic searches should be used to ensure that all designated areas are properly searched and that duplication of search areas is avoided.
3. When advancing from a stairwell into smoke or fire areas, firefighters should, if possible, remove some of the acoustical tiles in hanging ceilings to ensure the fire is not traveling overhead.
4. There may be times when evacuation/rescue will take priority over fire attack; however, more lives will usually be saved by an aggressive attack on the fire.
5. Fire apparatus committed to operational assignment (aerial rescue, standpipe, etc.) should try to position the apparatus with control/ pump panels facing away from the fire building. The potential for life hazards is high at ground level due to the lethal quantity of falling glass and debris

Dumpster Fire Guidelines

Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to establish steps to the safe, efficient extinguishment of Dumpster fires.



General:

1. Locate Pumper upwind, uphill, and not closer than 75' to the dumpster. Identify the nearest hydrant in case the 500 gallon booster tank is not sufficient.
2. Assess the situation for possible hazardous materials danger and for exposures.
3. Personnel must be equipped with and using SCBA and full personal protective equipment at all times during suppression and overhaul.
4. Advance the 1¾ " foam line on the dumpster fire. If exposures need to be protected, advance the second 1¾ " hand line. Consider calling for a full assignment if an exposure is threatened or involved.
5. On very large dumpsters it may be necessary to ladder the dumpster effective extinguishment and overhaul operations. If this is too dangerous due to flame contact on the metal, consider dispatching an aerial ladder to the location.
6. If side doors or top doors must be opened, use pole hooks. Do not open by hand.
7. Once the fire is extinguished, it may be necessary to move debris around to expose hidden fire. Use pole hooks from the outside of the dumpster. At no time will Montgomery Fire Department personnel enter the dumpster to overhaul.
8. If the fire cannot be completely extinguished, call the dumpster refuse company to send a truck to dump the contents so complete extinguishment can take place. The dumped debris will be the responsibility of the refuse company to clean up once the fire has been extinguished. The dumpster

company or renter of the dumpster will be responsible for any fees charged for helping stabilize the incident (For example: If a wrecker is used to pull a dumpster away from a structure).

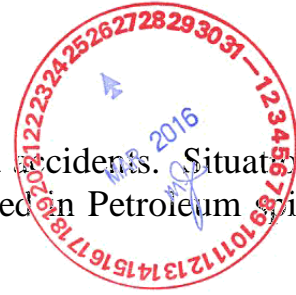
9. There is a drain plug on the dumpster to release excess water. If a large quantity of water is left standing in the dumpster, the refuse company and/or business renting the dumpster should be notified. The weight of the water could damage the hydraulics on a vehicle lifting the dumpster.



Vehicle Fires/Accident Guidelines

Purpose:

This guideline provides a basic approach to vehicle fires and accidents. Situations that involve larger fuel spills or hazardous cargos are covered in Petroleum Spills and Haz-Mat SOG's.



Dispatch:

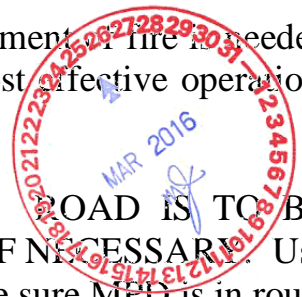
1. The District Chief has the overall responsibility and supervision of any type of vehicle fire or accident. If a District Chief is not dispatched, the highest ranking Officer is in charge of the operation.
2. Normally one pumper is dispatched to a vehicle fire; a rescue unit is dispatched along with the pumper on an accident. The first arriving Officer will determine if additional units are needed.
3. Montgomery Fire/Rescue dispatch procedures let personnel know as much as possible prior to arrival:
 - a. Vehicle fire – any class of automobile
 - b. Motor home – any vehicle that has living quarters.
 - c. Truck – any one piece vehicle used for hauling; pick-ups, vans, step vans, dump trucks etc.
 - d. Transport – any two or more piece vehicle (18 wheels) used for hauling non-hazardous materials.
 - e. Tanker – any vehicle that is carrying flammable liquid and or gases

Dispatch “a – d” requires an assignment of one Engine Company.

Dispatch “e” requires a full assignment plus Haz-mat 60.

Anytime Dispatch personnel have information that a vehicle classed “a – d” is hauling flammable/or hazardous materials; Dispatch will so state and send a full assignment plus Haz-mat 60.

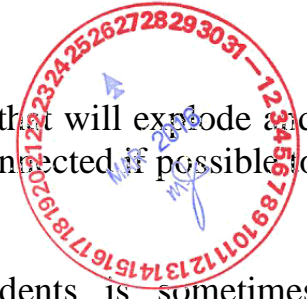
Vehicles involved in Fire:

1. The first arriving Officer shall determine if extinguishment of fire is needed and where to spot the apparatus for the safest and most effective operation. It is best to leave the emergency lights on.
 - a. Place apparatus between traffic and incident. ROAD IS TO BE BLOCKED AT BOTH ENDS OF INCIDENT IF NECESSARY. Use larger apparatus (i.e. engine) for blocking. Make sure MFD is in route to assist with traffic.
 - b. Be aware of terrain and any hazards that could be a potential hazard (i.e. fluids, power lines, wind, etc.).
 - c. If extrication, leave room for engine to get close enough to deploy tools and provide fire and traffic protection.
 - d. When a MFR member is working on the highway and is not engaged in the extrication or patient care process then he or she will wear an ORANGE SAFETY vest.
2. It is our policy to attempt to be upwind and uphill, and not to pass by a burning vehicle and jeopardize the apparatus and firefighters with a possible explosion.
3. A determination needs to be made on the water supply, if the booster tank is not sufficient, a supply line or tanker needs to be put into operation.
4. The 1¾" hose with foam capabilities is laid if extinguishment is the choice of action. The hydrant person can lay the line if the normal 1¾" person is donning gear, but shall not engage in firefighting without proper PPE. The person handling the nozzle for firefighting needs to be in complete PPE with SCBA.
5. The hydrant person can standby with a dry chemical extinguisher in case the fire involves fuel or oxidizers. This person shall be in full PPE and SCBA.

Safety:

- a. Its best to approach the vehicle from the side due to the hydraulic cylinders on the hood/trunk of some cars and the piston in the bumpers locked in a recessed position that could spring out when heated causing injury.

- b. All members involved in firefighting should be in full turnout with SCBA.
- c. Be careful of late air bag activation.
- d. New hybrid vehicles come with high voltage batteries that will explode and are very toxic. Batteries on all vehicles should be disconnected if possible to prevent re-kindles.
- e. Shoring and stabilizing vehicles involved in accidents is sometimes necessary to prevent injury to firefighters.
- f. Consider the flow of spilled fuel.
- g. An officer should always be mindful of traffic situations, coordination with the MPD, firefighters to control traffic, safety cones and vests should be put into operation as soon as possible.
- h. Be aware that most motor homes have a built in LPG tank.
- i. Make sure the vehicle is in a safe condition before its towed.



Vehicle Accidents not involving fire:

1. All Haz-mat precautions should be adhered to when dealing with transport vehicles.
2. Spotting the apparatus in a safe position upwind and uphill from the accident, precautions should be taken with cones and safety vests. It is usually best to leave emergency lights on.
 - a. Place apparatus between traffic and incident. ROAD IS TO BE BLOCKED AT BOTH ENDS OF INCIDENT IF NECESSARY. Use larger apparatus (i.e. engine) for blocking. Make sure MPD is in route to assist with traffic.
 - b. Be aware of terrain and any hazards that could be a potential hazard (i.e. fluids, power lines, wind, etc.).
 - c. If extrication, leave room for engine to get close enough to deploy tools and provide fire and traffic protection.

- d. When a MFR member is working on the highway and is not engaged in the extrication or patient care process then he or she will wear an ORANGE SAFETY vest.
3. Immediate size-up is necessary to determine the number of resources needed to handle the emergency.
4. If victims are trapped in the vehicle and extrication is needed, Heavy Rescue and a District Chief will be dispatched.
5. If there is someone trapped, the vehicle is overturned, or any potential problem, a 1¾" hose should be laid. Firefighters should be in full turnout with SCBA. A firefighter should be on standby with a dry chemical extinguisher with the pin pulled and watching the danger area. A salvage cover can be used to shield the patient from glass during extrication or fire if necessary.
6. Medical treatment to injured occupants needs to be administered as soon as possible; extra rescue units or ambulances need to be dispatched.
7. If a vehicle is overturned it is Montgomery Fire Department policy to remain on the scene with a manned line until the vehicle is up-righted and ready to be towed.

It is normal policy to dispatch the Heavy Rescue Team on all vehicle accidents involving 18 wheelers and heavy transports and also on all entrapments.



Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Guidelines

Purpose:

This guideline provides a basic approach for handling an aircraft accident that involves injuries and fire. Whether at Montgomery's municipal airport or Maxwell/Gunter Air Force bases, our role should be support. They are better equipped for and have more extensive training in dealing with aircraft disasters. We should not hesitate to call for their assistance if needed within the City. It is also important to notify the National Transportation Safety Board of all aircraft incidents regardless of incident severity.

Size up:

As with any type of emergency, sizing-up the situation at an aircraft accident site is critically important. After arriving, the Incident Commander must decide what specific actions are required, additional supports, and how the apparatus should be spotted for maximum effectiveness.

Positioning Apparatus:

1. Consider the slope of the ground and wind direction.
2. Do not place the vehicle so that they block the entry or exit of the accident site.
3. Do not place vehicles in hazardous positions.
4. Place vehicles so that they may be operated effectively in the event of fire.
5. Place vehicles so they can be used to help in the egress or rescue of persons from the aircraft.
6. Place vehicles so they can be repositioned as easily as possible.
7. Place vehicles so that turrets and hand-lines may be used to maintain the route of egress if necessary and effectively be used for fire suppression.

8. Drivers responding on apparatus should approach the scene of the accident with caution to avoid hitting persons who may have escaped or been thrown clear of the aircraft.

Hazardous Areas:

1. Aircraft propellers.
2. Intake and exhaust areas of the jet or turbine engines.
3. Guns, rockets, and the rear blast areas of missiles on military aircraft.
4. Underneath wing areas or other hanging wreckage.



Initial Attack:

All actions should be based on the same operational priorities as any other emergency; rescue, fire control, and property conservation. The potential for explosions, run-off, and toxic fumes are increased with the grade and quantity of fuel on board.

1. The placement of firefighting apparatus for the initial attack is governed by existing fire and crash conditions.
2. The main objective during this attack is to rescue occupants trapped within the aircraft. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to first control any fire that poses a threat to the victims or rescuers.
3. The primary goal in controlling the fire is to establish escape or rescue routes.
4. Other non-threatening fires may be left for later arriving units, allowing the Incident Commander the ability to focus his limited initial manpower on the rescue of victims.
5. Quickly controlling an area of fire to establish a rescue corridor involves the initial mass application of an extinguishing agent. The foam trailer, HRT, Haz-Mat, and tanker should be in the original dispatch.

6. An aircraft with an interior fire needs to be ventilated the same as any other enclosed structure.
7. Ventilation must be performed prior to the initial entry of personnel.
8. Be aware of potential hazards of high pressure hydraulic lines, compressed gas cylinders, bleed lines, and on military aircraft, unexploded ordnance.
9. Full PPE should be worn along with an SCBA on all operations. The atmosphere within the aircraft should be sampled with the appropriate gas-detection equipment.

Overhaul:

The on-scene investigating authority should be consulted before overhaul operations begin. During overhaul, emergency personnel must make sure that all fire is completely extinguished. This phase of aircraft firefighting is one of the most difficult and is also one of the most hazardous. Care should be taken to preserve as much of the interior in its original configuration as is reasonably possible.

During overhaul, personnel should avoid disturbing any evidence that may aid investigators in determining the cause of the accident. Overhaul personnel should move only those parts that are absolutely essential to complete fire extinguishment. If the aircraft or its parts and controls must be moved because they present a direct hazard to human life, every effort must be made to preserve physical evidence and record the original condition and location of whatever was moved.

Only authorized medical personnel should remove any bodies that may remain in the wreckage after the fire has been extinguished. Prematurely removing bodies may interfere with identifying them and may destroy evidence required by the medical examiner, coroner or other investigating authority. If it is absolutely necessary to remove a body prior to the arrival of the medical authority, emergency personnel should tag each body with a number. They should note on the tag the location from which the body was removed and also record that information on a drawing of the aircraft in their incident report. This information will be critically important in the accident investigation.

Electrical Emergencies Guidelines

Purpose:

To provide general guidelines for the safe handling of electrical emergencies.

Responsibilities:

If downed power lines are discovered, it should be immediately reported to the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander shall notify all on-scene units of the situation and take appropriate actions to neutralize the potential danger.

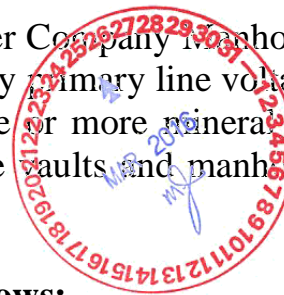
The following actions will be taken to assure that safety remains priority:

1. The IC will immediately notify all personnel of the location and safety concerns over the radio.
2. The IC will appoint a person to establish a safety barrier around the downed power lines.
3. The established safety barrier will be marked off with orange marking tape. The orange marking tape will be used on electrical hazards only. Orange cones may also be used to mark the downed lines.
4. After the area is secured, the person assigned to this duty will serve as the Safety Officer for this situation. It will be their responsibility to make sure everyone stays clear of this hazard.
5. The Safety Officer for this area will not leave the area until the situation is neutralized or the IC directs them to leave the area.
6. Once the power company makes an official notification that the hazard has been neutralized, the Safety Officer for this area will notify the IC.
7. The IC will be the only person that can terminate their assignment and will re-assign the person after the incident is cleared.



Underground Vaults and Power Company Manholes

Incidents involving Underground Electrical Vaults and Power Company Manholes are highly dangerous. These confined spaces contain not only primary line voltage (21,600 volts per lead encased in three-phase wire) but one or more mineral oil filled transformers which may contain PCBs. Fires in these vaults and manholes are Class B or Class C fires.



MFR procedures for mitigating these incidents are as follows:

1. Recognize the presence of an electrical vault or manhole and notify all personnel via radio communication. The IC must verify that the message was received by all.
2. Immediately notify the Power Company and advise them of the specific hazard.
 - a) The power company has a team specialized in maintaining these high energy vaults as well as specially trained in performing rescue operations under the extremely hazardous conditions.
3. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ACCESS ELECTRICAL VAULT OR POWER COMPANY MANHOLES FOR ANY REASON while the area is energized.
 - a) The power company must advise the IC that the system is de-energized before entry is permitted.
 - b) Communication pertaining to de-energizing must be performed face-to-face; do not risk miscommunication.
4. DO NOT attempt firefighting or rescue activities until you are absolutely positive the system is de-energized.
 - a) The power company recommends, "Let it burn, it can be repaired."
 - b) Attempting a rescue in an energized vault or manhole can result in severe energy or death. Delay rescue until the power company has de-energized the area.
5. Limit access to proximity of hazard area by taping off sufficient safe area.
6. Check adjacent buildings for smoke infiltration or electrical issues.

7. Utilize positive pressure ventilation to keep smoke out of buildings.
8. Protect exposures but avoid water spray from contacting electrical lines or equipment.
9. Be careful when positioning equipment and hose lines. Electrical lines may fall on apparatus, personnel, or hose lines.
10. Do not walk under transformers as some may still contain PCB's or burning oil. Transformers can and do explode.
11. Keep bystanders clear of hazard area.
12. When entering an underground vault that has been de-energized for rescue, personnel must be in full protective clothing, including a manned lifeline and a SCBA. Heavy rescue will be dispatched.
13. Do not assume that telephone wires are not charged by close proximity power lines; they may be in contact with high voltage wires.
14. Do not use water to control pole top fires, unless de-energized by the power company. Protect exposures.
15. Avoid standing in puddles of runoff water during firefighting operations when energized electrical equipment may be involved.
16. Assume that all wires are **HOT/ENERGIZED** and act accordingly.

Power Sub Stations:

1. No firefighting or rescue operations will take place until Power Company has advised that the station is completely de-energized.
2. IC will notify all personnel of limitations and/or clearance via radio and ensure the message was received.

Wires Down:

1. Personnel should not remove wires unless absolutely necessary to rescue victims and then only after all safety precautions have been observed.

2. When damaged poles are involved, position equipment and personnel a minimum of two poles away from downed lines to account for potential pole collapse.
3. Be aware when placing hose lines and apparatus that additional power lines may fall.
4. Establish a secure area (operational perimeter); include fences, guardrails, train tracks, and puddles of water which may be electrically energized.
5. Standby and keep the public away from the scene until wires are de-energized by power company personnel.

Cutting Wires:

It is the Montgomery Fire/Rescue's policy that no personnel cut electrical wires. It is also preferable that battery cables be disconnected (not Cut) and secured.

Electrical Fire Control:

1. Power pole fire – Do not extinguish with water unless life is threatened or a major component of the power pole is involved.
2. Electrical fires are best handled by shutting down the power source.
3. CO2 and dry chemical is the best extinguishing agent for electrical fires.
4. If a structure fire involves electrical service or wiring, the power to the building should be cut off at the main breaker if possible. This will be followed up by having the power company disconnecting the power supply at the pole.
5. **Electrical vault fires should be extinguished only after they have been de-energized.**
5. If fire attack must be considered for rescue purposes, do not use a straight solid stream, use narrow/fog pattern.

Vehicle Rescue:

1. Power lines should be considered hot/energized until verified by power company personnel.
2. Injured or uninjured victims, that are conscious, should stay in the vehicle until power company personnel can secure power to the downed lines.
3. Personnel should not try to remove or treat victims until the power company has de-energized the lines.

